

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for clearing pipes used for conveying flowable material of the flowable material conveyed in said pipes, said pipes having an inlet end and at least one or more outlets outlet end, said method comprising

as a first step, at said inlet end, forcing a gas into the pipe, with said at least one outlet or at least one of said outlets end open, at a first pressure sufficient to discharge from said open at least one outlet end pipe contents forced through by said gas, ~~using gas forcing means capable of maintaining an overpressure sufficient therefor at a low flow~~ first velocity;

as a second step, when substantially all of said pipe contents have been discharged from said open at least one outlet end, again at said inlet end, and with said outlet or at least one of said outlets open against said inlet end, forcing a gas into the pipe at a lower overpressure and a second velocity higher flow than said first velocity, and with said open outlet end still open, so that the gas pressure is lower than said first pressure, to clear contents remaining in said pipe after said low flow rate first step.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~in which the~~ wherein said ~~forcing means serve~~ forcing serves also for the ~~higher flow~~ second velocity step.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein a cleaning fluid is introduced into the pipe after the gas forcing steps.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein the cleaning fluid fills the pipe at least between the inlet end and the open ~~outlets or outlets~~ outlet end.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein the cleaning fluid is discharged from the pipe and, with the outlet ~~or outlets throttled~~ end partially closed down, a gas is forced into the pipe to increase the pressure therein so that ~~the~~ an accompanying adiabatic temperature increase dries the pipe of cleaning fluid.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the gas forced into the pipe is air.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the ~~higher~~ flow second velocity step involves a gas velocity through the pipe of the order of 20 m/s.

9. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for clearing pipes, comprising
gas forcing means connecting to an inlet end of the pipe;
valve means adapted to throttle down an outlet of the pipe;
said gas forcing means and valve means being adapted to the pipe to cooperate to effect both higher pressure, low flow velocity and lower pressure, higher flow velocity of gas through the pipe.

10. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, in which the forcing means comprise a pump.
11. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, in which the forcing means comprise blower means.
12. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 11, in which the blower means are capable of generating a gas flow velocity through the pipe of the order of 20 m/s.
13. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 7, in which the forcing means and valve means are adapted to the pipe to cooperate to elevate the pressure inside the pipe so as to increase the temperature of the gas in the pipe to evaporate a cleaning liquid while maintaining a flow out of the pipe through said valve means.
14. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, comprising a control arrangement controlling the gas forcing means.
15. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control arrangement controls the gas forcing means in accordance with conditions in the pipe.
16. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15, in which the control arrangement comprises a pressure relief valve.

17. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, comprising a pipe internal pressure means device
18. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, comprising a pipe internal temperature measuring device.
19. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control means control the output of the gas forcing means.
20. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 19, in which the gas forcing means comprise a rotary blower and the control means control the rate of rotation thereof.
21. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 20, in which the blower is electrically powered and speed control is *via* a frequency converter.
22. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control arrangement comprises a programmed computer.
23. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 22, in which the computer is programmed to cause the gas forcing means and all ancillary equipment to operate in accordance with sensed variables and/or to a time regime.